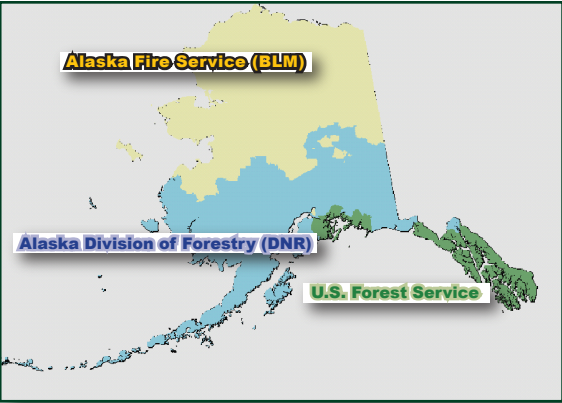


Want to know more?



Alaska Fire Service (BLM) 1-800-258-7706

Galena Zone	356-5623
Tanana Zone	356-5570
Upper Yukon Zone	356-5558

Alaska Division of Forestry (DNR)

Palmer	761-6238
Delta	895-4227
Fairbanks	451-2636
Glennallen	822-5534
Haines	766-2120
Kenai/Kodiak	262-4124
McGrath	524-3010
Palmer/Mat-Su	761-6300
Tok	883-5134

U.S. Forest Service

Chugach Nat. Forest	743-9435
Tongass Nat. Forest	228-6215

Fire web sites

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/fire>
<http://alaska.fws.gov/fire>
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov>
<http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>



Division of Forestry



Division of Wildlife Conservation

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."



**Wildland
Fire Management
in Alaska**

2007



**We can't
put out all wildfires
in Alaska...**

Prior to completion of area fire plans in 1988, agencies attempted to fight *all* wildland fires in Alaska. Often, there were not enough firefighters and equipment. This approach was expensive, inefficient, impractical, and impossible.

... and we shouldn't.

Fire managers eventually realized that too much fire suppression was creating conditions for *worse* fires. Aging forests often become continuous stands of black spruce, ready to burst into intense fires. These fires are more difficult and dangerous to control, and can cause greater property damage.

Today, in order to prioritize firefighting resources, preserve a fire-driven ecology, spend state firefighting dollars efficiently, and reduce dangerous forest fuel loads, the State of Alaska participates in an interagency **Wildland Fire Management Plan.**

**Fire benefits
forests,
wildlife
and people**



Scientists have learned that fire is critical for productive wildlife populations in Alaska forests. Fires do not burn evenly across the landscape and the mixture of plant types and ages resulting from fire offers a wide range of habitat and feeding opportunities for wildlife.

The birch, aspen, willow and alders that grow in burned areas are more fire resistant than the older spruce trees they replace. These natural 'fuel breaks' slow the next fire's advance and reduce its intensity.

This in turn provides an opportunity for firefighters to protect people and their property.



**Check out the
ADF&G brochure,
*Fire and Wildlife
in Alaska's Northern
Forests* for more
information about fire
and wildlife.**

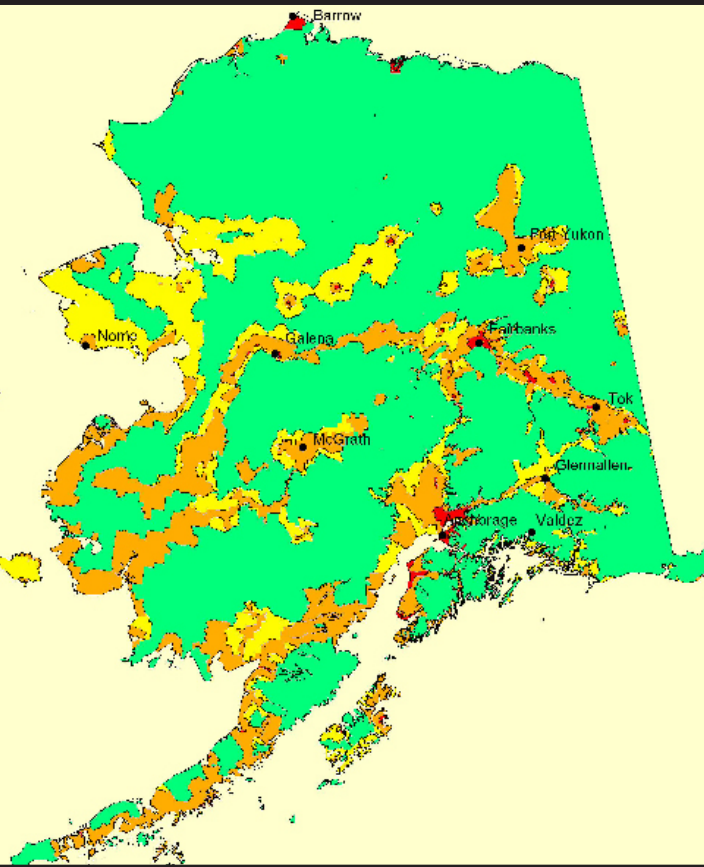


How the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan protects you!

The agencies responsible for fighting wildland fires in Alaska follow a plan that identifies four options for response to fires. Fire managers can then quickly identify the most appropriate response to new fires.

State, Federal, and Native land managers select fire management options for their lands each winter, before the fire season.

Contact the land manager or the fire organization for your area to find out which management option your land is in (see back).



Who decides?

These are the organizations that decide the level of fire protection. Contact them if you have questions or concerns.

Most privately owned lands: The State Division of Forestry

Native allotments: The Bureau of Indian Affairs

Native corporation land: The individual Native corporation

Public lands: The state or federal agencies that manage them

Which fires get fought?

The plan's four fire response options:

- Critical:** highest suppression priority to protect human life, inhabited property and improvements specified by land manager.
- Full:** #2 suppression priority; structures, cultural sites, high value natural resource areas (e.g. timber).
- Modified:** #3 suppression priority; provides suppression when potential for fire growth is high.
- Limited:** fires monitored but not usually fought unless higher priority areas are threatened.

How can we protect our community?

Firefighting is often necessary when wildland fires occur close to communities. But, actions *before* a fire will often determine what survives and what does not:

- Homeowners need to make their homes and property more defensible.
- Fuel breaks need to be constructed to give firefighters more opportunities to protect people and their property.
- Fire risk must be reduced on lands adjacent to communities to reduce the intensity of approaching fires.

A fuel break outside the community of Glennallen.



Logging, clearing, thinning and prescribed fire can be used to alter especially flammable forest types.

How safe is your home?

Are you and your property prepared so firefighters can protect your home? More and more people are moving into the *wildland/urban interface*, where homes are surrounded by forests instead of lawns. In the Interior, this is often amid thick stands of black spruce - our most fire prone tree!

Most property loss from wildland fire comes from embers that ignite flammable materials on or around the house *after* the fire has passed, not from the flaming front of the fire.

Help protect your home and property by following FireWise Landscaping and Construction practices. Learn more at:

www.firewise.org

